

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 100999 TOSEC 040153
ORIGIN PA-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 CCO-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 /018 R

DRAFTED BY PA:TRESTON:KTK

APPROVED BY PA:TRESTON

S/S-MR. TOM MARTIN

-----089083 200051Z /15

O 200014Z APR 78 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 100999 TOSEC 040153

FOR HODDING CARTER FROM TOM RESTON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)

SUBJECT: PRESS BRIEFING SUMMARY

THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS OF INTEREST WERE COVERED DURING
SPOKESMAN'S TUESDAY, APRIL 19 BRIEFING:

1. DESPITE EVER MOUNTING PRESS INTEREST IN WHETHER FRANCE
HAS BEEN TESTING A NEUTRON BOMB ON HER OWN, SPOKESMAN WAS
NOT IN A POSITION TO CONFIRM OR DENY SUCH NEWS MEDIA
REPORTS.

2. GENERAL TORRIJOS ON MONDAY EVENING FOLLOWING PASSAGE
OF CANAL TREATIES, STATED THAT VIOLENT ACTIONS WOULD HAVE
OCCURRED WHICH MIGHT HAVE SHUT DOWN THE CANAL BY THIS
MORNING HAD NOT THE SENATE RATIFIED THE TREATIES. SPOKES-
MAN RESPONDED: "WE HAVE SEEN ONLY A ROUGH TRANSLATION OF
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS AT THE TORRIJOS PRESS CONFERENCE,
BUT HE WAS RESPONDING, IT APPEARED, TO A SERIES OF HYPO-
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 100999 TOSEC 040153

THETICAL QUESTIONS. WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS THAT PANAMA
HAS ACCEPTED BOTH TREATIES WITH ALL RESERVATIONS AND
CONDITIONS. PANAMA HAS HAD AN EXCELLENT RECORD OF COMPLY-
ING WITH THE 1903 TREATY, WHICH IS OF COURSE MUCH LESS
FAVORABLE TO IT THAN THE NEW TREATIES. PANAMA HAS A
PARAMOUNT INTEREST IN THE NEW TREATIES AND IN KEEPING THE

CANAL OPEN AND SECURE IN THE FUTURE. THUS THERE IS EVERY REASON TO BELIEVE THAT PANAMA WILL FULLY COMPLY WITH THE NEW TREATIES. LET ME STRESS AGAIN THAT GENERAL TORRIJOS' STATEMENT ADDRESSED A HYPOTHETICAL SITUATION WHICH FORTUNATELY DID NOT OCCUR. I WANT TO ADD ONE LAST THING-- THAT THE U.S. MILITARY, AS ALWAYS, HAS CONTINGENCY PLANS AND WE BELIEVE THAT THE SECURITY OF THE CANAL WILL BE MAINTAINED."

3. AMBASSADOR ATHERTON'S SCHEDULED TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST WAS THE SUBJECT OF SUBSTANTIAL PRESS INTEREST. RESTON ANNOUNCED THAT ATHERTON'S POST-CAIRO TRAVEL PLANS WERE NOW IN QUESTION, WHEREAS PRIOR PLANS HAD CALLED FOR HIM TO GO TO ISRAEL. SPOKESMAN STATED: "THE PLANS WERE YESTERDAY THAT HE WAS GOING TO GO TO ISRAEL AFTER SEVERAL DAYS IN CAIRO, AND I THINK I DID SAY THAT WE SUGGESTED THAT IT WOULD BE A GOOD TIME FOR THE AMBASSADOR TO RETURN TO THE AREA AND THAT BOTH THE PARTIES AGREED AND SO THAT THE PLANS WERE FOR HIM TO GO. NOW I AM CITING THESE REPORTS IN THE ISRAELI PRESS THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF ISRAEL MIGHT BE COMING HERE, AND OBVIOUSLY THE TWO ARE RELATED. IF DAYAN IS GOING TO COME HERE, PROBABLY ATHERTON WILL NOT GO TO ISRAEL."

4. SOUTH AFRICAN DEFENSE MINISTER BOTHA IS QUOTED IN PRESS REPORTS AS HAVING SAID THAT THE UNITED STATES
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 100999 TOSEC 040153

IN 1976 ENCOURAGED SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY OPERATIONS IN ANGOLA, AND ALSO THAT U.S. MILITARY AIRCRAFT LANDED IN ANGOLA BEARING MILITARY EQUIPMENT FOR INSURGENT GROUPS LINKED TO SOUTH AFRICA. SPOKESMAN RESPONDED: "THE DECISION OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT TO INTERVENE IN ANGOLA WAS MADE UNILATERALLY BY THAT GOVERNMENT IN WHAT IT CONSIDERED TO BE ITS OWN INTEREST. THE UNITED STATES DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN THAT DECISION. THE UNITED STATES PROVIDED NO ARMS TO SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES IN ANGOLA OR ELSEWHERE. NO AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AIRCRAFT DELIVERED ARMS TO ANY RECIPIENTS IN ANGOLA (BY WHICH I MEAN TO SAY NO AMERICAN AIRCRAFT LANDED IN ANGOLA.)"

5. RESTON WISHES SECRETARY, CARTER, AND REST OF PARTY THE BEST OF LUCK IN MOSCOW. GODSPEED. CHRISTOPHER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE100999
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: TRESTON:KTK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780168-0469
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780434/aaaabctu.tel
Line Count: 109
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e75a79aa-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN PA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2901497
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS BRIEFING SUMMARY THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS OF INTEREST WERE COVERED DURING SPOKESMAN'S TUESDAY, APRIL 19 BRIEFING
TAGS: SOPN, OVIP, (VANCE, CYRUS R)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e75a79aa-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014